

Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: ___Catawba Region White House Conference on Aging Community Forum

Date of Event: _____March 17, 2004_____

Location of Event: _City of Rock Hill –City Council Chambers
_Rock Hill, SC 29732_____
(Include city and state)

Number of Persons attending: _____16_____

Sponsoring Organization(s): _Catawba Area Agency on Aging, York County Council on Aging and the Union County Council on Aging_____

Contact Name: ___Barbara J. Robinson_____

Telephone Number:(803) 329-9670_ **Email:** barbara.robinson@catawba-aging.com_

Please follow this format for each priority area, with the most important listed first. **Please ensure that your organization’s name and contact information is provided at the bottom of each page submitted.**

Priority Issue #1: (describe specific issue)

Affordable Transportation – the Catawba region lacks affordable transportation to transport seniors and other vulnerable populations to their desired destinations.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

- Out-migration by younger adults leaves many communities vulnerable.
- Transportation is not available for socialization and mobility within the community except for doctor visits.
- No access to mass transit for rural residents.
- Gaps in general awareness of needs of seniors regarding transportation.
- Lack of transportation to certain areas within the Catawba Region.
- Inaccessibility of meals on wheels programs in general
- Reduction in farm subsidies will negatively impact senior population, which forces service providers to prioritize.
- Confusion exists between meals on wheels programs and nutrition programs provided by council on aging organizations in the Catawba region.

Catawba Area Agency on Aging, 2051 Ebenezer Road, Suite B, Rock Hill, SC 29732

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- Always have to balance needs with access to funding.
- Lack of visibility of services and senior needs.
- Lack of mobility increases the need to reach out to seniors when family members are not around.
- Faith community referring seniors but not serving seniors.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

- Senior service providers in their communities provide outreach.
- Explore the possibility of getting volunteer groups to check on seniors to see how they are doing.
- Blast frozen meals have offered an alternative for meals to those residents living in very rural area.
- Use of volunteers to deliver meals in York and Union counties helps a great deal.
- Need to explore ways to reach out to increase the visibility of seniors so that all are aware.

Priority Issue #2: (describe specific issue)

Health care: Seniors in the Catawba Region lack access to adequate health care.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

- Due to the expense of healthcare doctors do not get to see senior patients until they are often already suffering from an illness.
- Funding for wellness programs for seniors.
- Seniors having to chose between healthcare and eating.
- Medication and drug program changes effective for 2006 are very confusing.
- People(seniors) who need the medicine do not have the power to make the decisions that need to be made.
- Pharmaceutical industry spends more on marketing than they do on research.
- South Carolina fazing out Silver Card at the detriment to seniors .
- Changes to Medicare program confusing.
- The right to buy medicine cheaper. For example, buying medicine from Canada.
- Changes that are being forced upon states by the federal government will devastate seniors.
- Seniors are the fastest growing population.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

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- Establish a task force to come up with intervention to deal with issues related to healthcare.
- Need more funding for wellness for seniors.
- Less expensive to provide basic medical care for seniors.
- Competitive bidding process needed in the pharmaceutical industry to drive the cost of medicine down.
- The ability to buy medicine in bulk would save senior's money.
- Senior population should have clout given their growth rate and should use that clout.
- We must insure that the senior voices are heard.
- Keeping the caregiver healthy is crucial to the care of the senior.
- Networking is the key to being successful in assisting seniors.

Priority Issue: (describe specific issue)

Research and Education- Understanding the issues facing seniors is important to identifying possible solutions.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

- What are we doing to change our homes to accommodate seniors.
- Difficult to change the mindset of people but it is important to do so.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

- Need to build more accessible housing for elderly.
- Need to do more to educate doctors about the needs of seniors.
- New program in South Carolina to train doctors for specializing in geriatrics.

Priority Issue: (describe specific issue)

Long-term care living

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

- The cost of providing long-term care is cost prohibitive especially acute care.
- Long term care cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000 monthly is not affordable for most.
- Medicaid facilities for this type care not available.
- Need to find more affordable long-term care facilities.
- A big gap exists between Medicaid and the minimum \$3,000 funding needed to cover long- term care costs.
- The average age of participants at senior centers is increasing.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

- We all want seniors to have a good quality of life and to remain at home. We need to identify ways of allowing seniors to remain at home.
- We need to identify ways of getting seniors not to remain permanently in the nursing home but to return to their own home as soon as feasible.
- Increase the availability of acute care.
- Very small percentage senior population actually in nursing homes.
- Movement to redirect funding from nursing homes to supporting seniors who remain in their homes. Need to support this idea more to counter the medical model.

Priority Issue : (describe specific issue)

In-Migration: the need to identify ways to deal with the growth of in-migration in the Catawba region.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

- Concerned by the growth of the northern part of Lancaster Co. in the Indianland community. This is a very high growth area. This community is unprepared for the services that will be needed for the population growth there.
- Certificate of need for acute care facilities not available.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

- In-migration within the state primarily and not out of state folks in SC.
- In-migration can be a positive things for area where higher income residents move in. Often spouses die and the remaining spouse relocated where they originally came from.

Priority Issue : (describe specific issue)

Caregiving- Caregiving is very important and must be widely supported.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

- Increased need for respite care but there is not adequate funding.
- Increasing number of grandparents caring for grandchildren. Seniors need help caring for grandchildren.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

- Establishing a geriatrics best practices. This is being considered by the Southern Baptist Association.
- Movement by the faith community to help.
- Better care for residents is provided when they are able to remain in their home.
- Volunteer programs would be helpful in increasing the awareness of seniors and their needs.
- Telephone reassurance programs were beneficial before they lost their funding for staying in touch with seniors.

Priority Issue : (describe specific issue)

Housing- Housing needs for seniors larger than the availability of affordable housing.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

- Accessibility in housing. Need more handicapped accessible housing.
- Short supply of homes for single family or handicapped seniors.
- Non-existence of housing of moderate priced housing. This is affects middle-income retirees.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

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**REGISTRATION FORM
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING COMMUNITY FORUM**

COMMUNITY FORUM: Catawba Region White House Conference on Aging Community Forum DATE: March 17, 2005			
PARTICIPANT'S NAME	ADDRESS	UNDER AGE 55	OVER AGE 55
1. Doris Platt	4450 Percival Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29730		X
2. Martha McNeal	222 E. Madison Street York, SC 29745		X
3. Sheryl Baker	300-A W. Gay Street. Lancaster, SC 29720	x	
4. Barbara Smith	175 Diane Road York, SC 29745		X
5. John Solomon	601 Penn Lane Drive Chester, SC 29706		X
6. Thomas Butch Sanders	1530 Tom Steven Rd. Rock Hill, SC 297		X
7. Harmon Merritt	206 Springdale Drive York, SC 29745		X
8. Maria Cardenas	1236 Ebenezer Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29732		X
9. Virginia Crisp	1890 Neely Creek Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29730	x	
10. Henrietta F. Massey	930 Crawford Road Rock Hill, SC 29730		X
11. Wendy Duda	York County Council on Aging P.O. Box 11519 Rock Hill, SC 29731		X
12. Earl Black	325 Black Road Union, SC 29379	x	
13. Martha Cowan	1203 Winthrop Drive Rock Hill, SC 29730		x

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14. Kelly Mitchum	197 S. Herlong Ave. Rock Hill, SC 29732	X	
15. Barbara T. Smith	359 Park Avenue Rock Hill, SC 29730	X	
16. Barbara J. Robinson Catawba AAA	2051 Ebenezer Road, Suite B. Rock Hill, SC 29732	X	
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18.			
19.			
20.			